GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:348
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2015
Improvement in Sanitation
Jaiswal Dr. Sanjay;Rai Shri Prem Das

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the land on either side of the railway tracks especially in towns and cities is being used for open defecation and dumping of refuse and if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;
(b) whether steps are being taken by the railway authorities under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to tackle the problem and if so, the details thereof; and
(c) whether the Railways has drawn up any programme to undertake landscaping along the railway tracks so as to prevent open defecation and squatting and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU)
(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 348 BY SHRI PREM DAS RAI AND DR. SANJAY JAISWAL TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 23.12.2015 REGARDING IMPROVEMENT IN SANITATION

(a) Yes, Madam. The problem of open defecation and dumping of refuse exists on tracks outside station area where human settlements are near to track, especially at approaches to major towns and cities. Rag picking from track in the block sections outside station area at approaches to major town and cities is being done from time to time.
(b) Under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Special Cleanliness Campaign was launched on Indian Railways w.e.f 2nd Oct, 2014. Regular events on cleanliness are planned and organised to improve and maintain cleanliness at Railway premises including Railway stations and tracks. Weekly special intensive cleaning drives at Railway stations in rotation have also been undertaken by Zonal Railways.
On completion of one year of Swachh Bharat Mission, cleanliness drives have been launched by Indian Railways from 25th Sept, 2015. This included 'Sardar Patel United Clean India Drive' focused on cleanliness at Railway stations and trains from 11th October, 2015. Campaigns for increasing the awareness and participation from all sections viz. Railway staff, Railway users/public as well as Charitable Institutions/Social Organisations, were organised at many major stations. Enforcement of Indian Railways (Penalties for activities affecting cleanliness at railway premises) Rules, 2012 has also been intensified.
(c) In pursuance of Railways commitment towards environmental improvement through afforestation and also with a view to safeguard Railway land against unauthorised occupation and to check defecation at some locations, Railways undertake tree plantation in its vacant land on a programmed basis in a manner so as to not affect the visibility of track and safe operation of trains. Vacant Railway land is generally in the form of thin strips along the track.

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